

## **SOUTH CAROLINA PARTICIPATION IN SREB PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

- The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) was founded in 1948 by the Governors of the member states specifically to help states share resources and improve higher education.
- Today, SREB continues to organize and administer regional arrangements to avoid costly duplication and expensive development of programs that provide access to undergraduate and graduate programs in specialized areas by waiving out-of-state tuition.
- SREB data collection, SREB policy documents, comparative research and publications on K-20 issues as well as participation in several other programs are benefits of SC's membership in this sixteen state consortium.
- The SREB operates through state support provided by the member states. SREB's 16 member states are AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, and WV.
- Each year, the Governors of the member states receive an invoice for their share of SREB general operations and regional education programs and for contracts-for-services. The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) coordinates SC's participation in higher education programs under the SREB. Funding for SREB participation and programs flows through CHE.
- Over the years, state support has enabled numerous South Carolinians to benefit directly through access to programs at rates not available without SC's participation in SREB. SC benefits as a state from timely policy information and access to other regional programs.

**SREB General Operation and Regional Education Programs** offer benefits by enabling access to student programs such as the *Academic Common Market*, which provides access to undergraduate and graduate programs in specialized areas. In addition, SC benefits from access to a wealth of SREB publications, data sharing resources, and the ability to participate in other regional programs. SREB works with higher education and K-12 agencies in the 16 member states to collect and share timely comparative information and to produce policy reports used extensively by state leaders.

**SREB Higher Education Contract Programs** offer students pursuing professional health degrees admission to schools in other states for the price of in-state tuition and fees at public institutions and reduced tuition at private institutions. Participating states pay schools to maintain spots in their professional programs and save the expense of building and staffing these schools. SC participates in Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University, the University of Georgia, and Mississippi State University and in Optometry at Southern College in Tennessee and the University of Alabama Birmingham. SREB serves as the fiscal agent and handles the administrative duties for participating states. SC has participated in veterinary medicine programs since 1958 and optometry since 1973. Funding supports a total of 104 veterinary medicine and 24 optometry students.

**Academic Common Market** (ACM) was established in 1974 by SREB to share among member states specified degree programs located at public colleges and universities through an exchange of students across borders at in-state rates. As a cooperative agreement, the ACM seeks to eliminate unnecessary duplication of degree programs while supporting programs which are able to serve additional students. The ACM allows residents of the 16 member states to pay in-state tuition rates while enrolled in certain degree programs at participating SREB out-of-state colleges and universities. In accordance with SREB policy, eligible programs are those undergraduate and graduate programs which are at least 50 percent different in course content from programs offered in the home state. Currently, SC institutions have made just over 130 programs available through the Academic Common Market, and SC residents have access to more than 450 out-of-state programs. Last year (2014), 88 South Carolinians were certified to access programs in other SREB states.

**Doctoral Scholars Program** provides financial assistance and academic support to minority students who are admitted to doctoral programs. Started in 1993, the program aims to produce more minority PhDs and encourage them to seek faculty positions. Last year 15 new and continuing SC students participated. Since its inception, the Doctoral Scholars program has graduated in total across the region 800 PhD's and 83% are employed in education; SC has supported 72 of those graduates.

## SREB Funding and FY 2016-17 Request

In FY 2016-17, the appropriations for SREB are found across two lines in CHE's base budget – SREB Contract Program and Assessments (\$3,849,250) and SREB Arts Program (\$7,177)<sup>1</sup> for a total of \$3,856,527.

**For FY 2016-17, CHE is requesting increased recurring funding need of \$245,212 to maintain level participation in the SREB programs.**

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### FY 2016-17, SREB program costs and requested funding are outlined as follows:

SREB Contract Programs	\$3,661,600 <sup>2</sup>
Veterinary Medicine at University of Georgia, Mississippi State University and Tuskegee (104 students at \$31,100 per student, totaling \$3,234,400) and Optometry at Southern College of Optometry and University of Alabama (24 students at \$17,800 per student totaling \$427,200).	
Doctoral Scholars Program (12 students at \$25,000 per student)	\$300,000
SREB General Appropriations and Regional Education Programs Including Technology Initiative <sup>3</sup>	\$207,400 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total FY 2016-17 Need</b>	<b>\$4,169,000</b>

### Current available funding sources:

FY 2015-16 Recurring General Fund Appropriation	(\$3,856,527)
Anticipated unexpended SREB funds carried forward from FY2015-16 <sup>4</sup>	(\$67,361)

### Resulting FY 2016-17 request after consideration of recurring funds and estimated carry forward:

**Recurring Increase of \$245,212**

- 1 Participation in the SREB Tuition Aid Arts Program for SC residents attending the NC School of Arts ended as of July 1, 2015 with the deletion of the supporting program proviso in the FY 2015-16 Appropriations Act. There were no participants in this program last year (2014-15).
- 2 For FY 2016-17, per student rates for Optometry and Veterinary Medicine increase by 6.6% over FY 2015-16 contract rates per SREB scheduled increases. Veterinary Medicine increases by \$2,000 per student and Optometry by \$1,100 per student for an overall increase of \$234,400 (104 x \$2,000=\$208,000 plus 24 x \$1,100=\$26,400).
- 3 To support core operations and regional education programs for FY 2016-17, SREB set the requested appropriations payment at \$199,400 which is a 1.5% (\$2,947) increase over FY 2016-17. The balance of \$8,000 supports participation in the SREB Technology Initiative.
- 4 CHE is authorized by budget proviso (FY 2015-16, Part 1B 11.6) to carry forward funds appropriated for SREB programs and expend such funds for the same purpose. Carry forward funds may result in any year if all available funded SC contract seats are not filled due to occasional student stop-outs which may occur during the year. The request for FY 2016-17 anticipates all seats being filled and factors in estimated carry forward from any seats not filled in the current year.